



## NEBRASKA STATE BAR FOUNDATION

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### **"Ben Franklin" Comes to Kearney to Celebrate Constitution Day**

Chris Lowell, a Ben Franklin re-enactor from Colorado Springs, Colorado, will be in Kearney on September 14 to deliver his Chautauqua-style presentation of "Ben Franklin Live." Lowell will direct his morning presentation toward fifth graders, then he will offer programming in the afternoon for high-school students.

The September 14 morning session will originate from Windy Hills Elementary School. Other classrooms, including fifth graders at Pleasanton Public School and Loup City, will participate via web-based interactive learning technology provided by Educational Service Unit (ESU) 10 with technical assistance from ESU 10's Distance Learning Coordinator John Stritt.

The afternoon session, planned for upper level students, will originate from ESU 10 and will have students from Kearney Catholic High School in the studio. Other high school classrooms from Pleasanton, North Platte and Loup City will also interact with "Ben Franklin," via web-based distance learning. A number of other schools will be added to both the morning sessions via a "streaming" connection that will allow them to also observe the Constitution Day program.

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Lowell will first appear in character as Ben Franklin, discussing his historic role in the founding of the nation. He will showcase Franklin as our most beloved Founding Father who signed all four of the key documents that established our Republic. Lowell will remain in character, taking questions from students, then he will receive questions as himself, a scholar of Ben Franklin studies.

A Social Studies Methods class for aspiring elementary school teachers at the University of Nebraska at Kearney will observe the event then plan a post conference activity at each KPS elementary school. Windy Hills Principal Jerry Gloystein and fifth grade teacher Andrew Kamler are working with Methods instructor Ed Walker to plan this activity.

Justice John F. Wright, Nebraska Supreme Court, will introduce both the morning and afternoon sessions. The Buffalo County Bar Association is coordinating a luncheon with Justice Wright at The Venue, 110 Second Avenue. The luncheon is a no-host event, and area attorneys interested in attending should send an email to [doris@nebarfnd.org](mailto:doris@nebarfnd.org).

Constitution Day is a day set aside to observe the ratification of the United States Constitution, signed on September 17, 1787. Senator Robert Byrd is credited with proposing the 2004 legislation that created the annual commemoration. Celebration of Constitution Day in Nebraska has been annually sponsored by the Bar Foundation and the Nebraska Supreme Court through specialized programming and the providing of Constitution Day resources on the Web for classroom teachers. These resources may be found at <http://www.nebarfnd.org/constitution-day-resources>.

Lowell's appearance in Nebraska is made possible by the Bar Foundation's Flavel A. Wright Fund for the Study of Constitutional Law. If you would like more information about the "Ben Franklin" live program or other Constitution Day teaching resources, contact Cindy Lilleoien, [cindy@nebarfnd](mailto:cindy@nebarfnd), or phone 402/475-1042.